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**HF 2366** – Election Administration and City Elections (LSB 6127HV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New (Similar to HF 2354 and SF 2301)

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### **Description**

**Amendment H-8199** to **House File 2366** relates, in part, to the administration of elections and voter registration as follows:

- Requires voter registration to close 11 days prior to primary elections.
- Maintains the 12:00 PM Monday deadline for the receipt of ballots from certain military and overseas voters.
- Allows an affidavit to be marked on the return envelope. If a return envelope marked with the affidavit is used, absentee ballots mailed to a voter are required to be enclosed in the unsealed return envelope marked with the affidavit and must be enclosed in a second envelope to be sent to the registered voter requesting an absentee ballot. This Bill allows a county commissioner of elections to continue sending absentee ballots as provided under current law or to send absentee ballots utilizing a return envelope marked with the affidavit.
- Repeals Iowa Code section **53.14**. This will eliminate the requirement that an affidavit designate a voter's party affiliation if the ballot enclosed is a primary election ballot.
- The Division related to election administration is effective when enacted.

### **Background**

Under current law, the following provisions apply:

- Voter registration closes at 5:00 PM 10 days prior to a general or primary election and 11 days prior to all other elections.
- Absentee ballots must be received before the polls close on Election Day or must be postmarked no later than the day before the election and received by the county commissioner of elections no later than 12:00 PM on the Monday following the election.
- Absentee ballots mailed to a voter must be enclosed in an unsealed envelope bearing a serial number and an affidavit, which are then required to be enclosed in or with a return envelope, all of which are then required to be enclosed in a third envelope to be sent to the registered voter requesting an absentee ballot.

### **Assumptions**

- The average staffing costs for each county on day 11 before a primary election is \$400, not including utilities. (a Saturday)
- Not all 99 counties will have the auditor's office open on day 11 before a primary election.
- The envelope, printing, and postage costs resulting from the third absentee envelope is an estimated \$0.35 per ballot.
- An estimated 30,000 absentee ballots will be mailed for each primary election.
- An estimated 688,000 absentee ballots will be mailed for presidential general elections.

- An estimated 360,000 absentee ballots will be mailed for gubernatorial general elections.
- The number of absentee ballots for city and school elections is not available.
- The legislation will be enacted before June 3, 2014.

### **Fiscal Impact**

[Amendment H-8199](#) to [HF 2366](#) will have no impact on the State General Fund. However, HF 2366 will result in estimated statewide savings for county funds as follows:

- \$40,000 from not having county auditor offices open on day 11 before primary elections beginning with FY 2014 and every two years after.
- \$126,000 from not requiring a third envelope for absentee ballots for gubernatorial elections beginning with FY 2015 and every four years after FY 2015.
- \$11,000 from not requiring a third envelope for absentee ballots for primary elections beginning with FY 2014 and every two years after FY 2014.
- \$241,000 from not requiring a third envelope for absentee ballots for presidential elections beginning with FY 2017 and every four years after FY 2017.

The savings for cities and schools cannot be determined since the number of absentee ballots mailed for those elections is not available. The savings would be for city and county funds, since they reimburse the counties for election administration.

### **Sources**

Iowa State Association of Counties  
Secretary of State

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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April 6, 2014

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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